

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 ACDA-05 AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 OFA-01 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FEAE-00 FMC-01 TRSE-00

H-02 INR-07 INT-05 IO-11 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

NSF-01 OES-03 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAL-01 OIC-02 /114 W
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R 171445Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 380

INFO USUN NEW YORK 342

C O N F I D E N T I A L L O M E 0 6 1 5

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS, TO

SUBJECT: LOS CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 054588

1. EMBOFF DISCUSSED LOS ISSUES WITH ANANI DAGBA, CHIEF OF CONFERENCES DIVISION OF MFA MARCH 16. ALTHOUGH TOGOLESE DELEGATION WILL BE HEADED BY UN PERM REP TOGBE, KEY MAN IS COUNSELOR ELLIOTT LAWSON WHO ATTENDED PREVIOUS CONFERENCES AT GENEVA AND CARACAS. LAWSON IS NOT KNOWN TO EMBASSY.

2. DAGBA EXPLAINED SHELF LOCKED POSITION OF TOGO LED IT TO OPPOSE BROAD DEFINITION OF CONTINENTAL MARGIN AND SUPPORT FULL INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY CONTROL OF RESOURCES BEYOND 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE. AS COASTAL STATE, HOWEVER, TOGO WAS LEERY OF ANY LANGUAGE CONCERNING RIGHTS OF ACCESS OF LAND-LOCKED STATES WHICH MIGHT ERODE TOGOLESE SOVEREIGNTY. HE WAS ACADEMICALLY SYMPATHETIC TO NEED FOR REGIONAL REGULATION OF SOUTH ATLANTIC TUNA
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FIYHING SINCE TOGO MIGHT IN FUTURE WISH TO PARTICIPATE. IN RESPONSE

TO QUESTION, DAGBA SAID HE WOULD WELCOME DISCUSSION OF PARTICULAR ISSUES AS CONFERENCE WORE ON, BUT ADMITTED THAT TOGO'S DELEGATION OPERATING UNDER GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS, AND EXPECTED TO MAKE FINAL VOTING DECISIONS WITHIN THEIR LIMITS.

3. COMMENT: FAILURE OF OAU TO COME UP WITH COMMON AFRICAN POSITION HAS LEFT TOGO FREE TO DEFINE OWN POSITION. CONVERSATION WITH DAGBA INDICATES TOGO'S INTERESTS IN LOS ISSUES BEING DEFINED PRAGMATICALLY, NOT IDEOLOGICALLY. GIVEN LAWSON'S PRESTIGE AS MOST KNOWLEDGEABLE TOGOLESE ON LOS MATTERS, AND LOOSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MFA AND DELEGATION, DO NOT BELIEVE APPROACHES IN LOME ARE LIKELY TO HAVE MUCH IMPACT IN NEW YORK DESPITE DAGBA'S OPENNESS.
RAWLS

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04 MAY 2006

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